(3) Subsidising the people in extracting oil from oil seeds, curing fish and developing the art of painting.

(4) Award of grants-in-aid to all industries and supervising them effectively.

(5) Finding out suitable markets abroad for selling local products and for purchasing commodities for use in the State.

(6) Paying greater attention to the development of trade.

(7) Prohibiting assignment of lands and giving of contracts to foreigners.

(8) Locally made articles should be used by the Government for Government purposes and Government officers and students should be compelled to use such articles.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kumara Pillai, at present, the State is encouraging industries by giving technical education in Government schools and grants-in-aid to industrial schools, and also by granting industrial loans. The Director of Industries is preparing a scheme for developing industries in the State, which, I hope, will soon be ready; and I have no doubt your suggestions will be considered by him.

26. The coir industry.

MR. M. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Nominated*) urged the need for encouraging the *coir* industry in the State. The importance of this industry in the State could not be overrated. It provided livelihood for a sixth of the population. The value of *coir* exported was equal to the value of rice and paddy imported. The genesis of this industry was the discovery by a European resident in Anjengo that cocoanut fibre could be used for making cables. Later on, another European, one Mr. Darragh, found out that mattresses could be made out of this fibre. Since then the industry developed rapidly and many European firms were opened at Alleppey. But it was deplorable that the Government had not done anything substantial for the promotion of this industry. Till the outbreak of the late war, the industry was progressing well. With the close of the war the conditions changed and *coir* industry was seriously affected. Further more the world-wide economic depression affected it more than all. There was no demand for *coir* articles abroad and the prices had gone down. It was therefore necessary that the Government should take immediate steps to protect this industry. Most of the people engaged in it lacked capital. To make up for the low prices offered for *coir* articles, the people were deteriorating the quality of the articles and having recourse to fraud, such as sending out wet *coir*, weighing out *coir* with sand, etc. If these processes were continued, there would be no market for them in future. The Government should therefore find out ways and means to avoid this contingency. The following were the suggestions made by the member :—

(1) Use of fraudulent methods of manufacturing *coir* articles should be penalised.

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(2) Much of the profit of the *coir* trade went to the middleman. In order to avoid this, some organisation should be formed on co-operative principles which would be able to sell the commodities directly in the consuming market.

(3) Appointment of Government trade agents in foreign countries to find out proper markets for *coir* articles.

(4) Grant of industrial loans to *coir* industrialists.

(5) Publication of leaflets by the Industries Department for disseminating scientific knowledge among laymen engaged in *coir* industry.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kunjukrishnan, a committee to enquire into the condition of factory industries has been appointed; it has not started work yet, but it will do so soon. The committee will enquire into the state of factory industries, in general, and the *coir* industry, in particular, and, when the report of the committee is received and taken up for consideration, your suggestions for protecting the industry will also be considered.

The other suggestions you have made will also be considered.

27. Suggestions for encouraging industrial habits among women.

SRIMATI K. BHAGIRATHI AMMA (*Nominated*) thanked the Government for nominating her as a member of the Assembly and prayed for a long and prosperous reign of His Highness the Maha Raja. She said that the future of the women of the country depended upon their industry. The system of education obtaining in the State was only fit to produce persons for Government service. Seventy per cent. of the educated women were unemployed and did not know how to make use of their education for earning their livelihood. The Travancore Government could not provide employment for all the educated women, so that the present day education was aimless and ended in disappointment of the educated. A scheme had therefore to be planned for providing employment to women and encouraging them in their industrial habits. The formulation and success of any such scheme necessarily depended to a large extent on Government help. The member suggested the following scheme for the sympathetic consideration of the Government:—

(1) An industrial institute should be opened for the benefit of women. For this, an extent of 20 acres of land within a distance of 3 to 4 miles from the Trivandrum town should be granted free.

(2) A building grant should also be awarded for erecting the necessary buildings on the site.

(3) A loan of Rs. 35,000, free of interest for five years and repayable within a period of 25 years, should be advanced for starting useful and profitable industries. There was no objection to the Government exercising any sort of control as regards the prope utilisation of the loan.

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